



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of : **Mail Stop: RCE**
Hiroaki INOUE et al. : Docket No. 2001_1094A
Serial No. 09/890,455 : Group Art Unit 2812
Filed March 12, 2002 : Examiner Lynne A. Gurley
ELECTROLESS PLATING LIQUID AND Confirmation No. 3064
METHOD OF FORMING INTERCONNECTION
USING SUCH AN ELECTROLESS PLATING LIQUID

PRELIMINARY REMARKS

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This paper is presented concurrently with the filing of an RCE, requesting entry and consideration of the amendments set forth in the Applicants response dated November 12, 2004.

The Advisory Action indicates that "further consideration will have to be given as to whether the process as a whole does not contain alkali metals, especially when considering the "comprising" language in the preamble, which would enable other ingredients of the plating bath to contain these metals and the disruptors".

It is respectfully submitted that the claims after entry of the amendments filed November 12, 2004 will exclude any alkaline metals and endocrine disruptors from the method as a whole. Although it is recognized that the term "comprising" is open claim language, such open term cannot override the explicit requirement of the claims that the method is conducted without any alkaline metals and endocrine disruptors.

In summary, although the claim does include "comprising" language in the preamble, which would enable other ingredients to be present in the plating bath, the process as a whole may not be conducted with any alkaline metals or endocrine disruptors.

Favorable action and allowance is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Hiroaki INOUE et al.

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PATENT OFFICE FEE TRANSMITTAL FORM

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
Sir:

THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED
TO CHARGE ANY DEFICIENCY IN THE
FEE FOR THIS PAPER TO DEPOSIT
ACCOUNT NO. 23-0975.

Attached hereto is a check in the amount of **\$1,240.00** to cover Patent Office fees relating to filing the following attached papers:

Request for Continued Examination (RCE) \$790.00

Petition for Extension of Time \$450.00

A duplicate copy of this paper is being submitted for use in the Accounting Division, Office of Finance.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency or to credit any overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 23-0975, with the EXCEPTION of deficiencies in fees for multiple dependent claims in new applications.

Respectfully submitted,

Hiroaki INOUE et al.

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